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The Bureau of Land Management's Recreational Rivers

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

WELCOME TO THE RIVERS OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Many of the rivers in the Western States and Alaska are managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), an agency of the Department of the Interior. About 100 river segments provide a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities such as whitewater boating, wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, side canyon hiking, or sightseeing. Thirteen of these rivers are part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. They are the Rio Grande, New Mexico; Upper Missouri, Montana; Rogue, Oregon; Eel, Trinity, Klamath, and North Fork of the American, California; Beaver Creek, Birch Creek, Delta, Fortymile, Gulkana, and Unalakleet Rivers, Alaska.

The BLM rivers are managed to meet recreational use, protect the river resources, and reduce user conflicts. Based on resource capabilities and management objectives, river management plans outline the type of development and use for each river. This brochure provides general information about BLM rivers and where to write for specific information.

Special recreation permits are required for all commercial and competitive recreational river use. They also may be required for individual or private group use when necessary to maintain use levels or protect river resources. A permit fee is charged to recover at least a portion of the costs of administering the permit system. In addition, portions of fees paid for commercial and competitive permits represent a return to the Federal government for special uses of the public lands. Check in advance to see if the river trip you are planning requires a permit. The map and chart inside provide information on some BLM rivers and the offices managing them.

ENJOY THE RIVERS AND PROTECT THE RESOURCES

We want users to enjoy their river outings. To assist you, we have prepared a few simple guidelines to reduce health hazards and protect the natural resources. These guidelines may be supplemented by local BLM offices to meet specific conditions.

● **CAMPING** - Rivers offering multi-day trips have campsites available, sometimes requiring a reservation. Facilities usually

are limited to toilets above high water. Avoid camping close to others and try to use beaches or sandbars. This reduces damage to vegetation and allows high water to remove evidence of your camp.

● **TRASH DISPOSAL** - Pack out what you pack in. Keep trash bags handy for cans, papers, cigarette butts, and other litter. Never throw anything in the river, especially bottles.

● **CAMPFIRES** - Wildfire is a hazard in dense vegetation along river bottoms. The use of gas stoves, fire pans (a metal garbage can lid does nicely), or existing fire rings may be required to prevent scarred beaches. Use driftwood for open fires rather than dead tree limbs and keep fires small. This reduces impacts on the landscape and helps maintain a supply of wood for others. Completely extinguish all fires when leaving. Cans, bottles, and tinfoil do not burn - please carry them out.

● **HUMAN WASTE** - Human waste and toilet paper must be properly disposed of to protect health, and prevent pollution to soils and vegetation. When available, use toilet facilities, or bring equipment to carry the waste out. If necessary, bury the waste at least two feet deep, away from the river and camping area. Toilet paper should be burned to prevent scattering.

● **CAMP HYGIENE** - Try to bathe and wash dishes away from the river and camping area. All waste water should be discarded in the same hole used for human waste. Only biodegradable soap and toothpaste should be used. Well-planned menus can help simplify dishwashing.

● **PRIVATE PROPERTY** - Please respect the rights of others. Never cross or use private property without the owner's permission.

● **WATER SAFETY** - Most river rapids have been informally rated as to their difficulty. The rating system spans six classes, from Class I, which is very easy, to Class VI, which is extremely dangerous. Also, difficulty increases at high water or high winds. Check with local offices for current ratings. Scouting or walking along the shore to plan the run is recommended on rapids rated Class III and above. Life jackets are required in most States. If you fall overboard, float on your back, keep your feet pointed

POPULAR FLOAT BOATING RIVERS

downstream and your knees bent. Grab only the upstream side of the boat.

● **EQUIPMENT** - Carry a spare oar/paddle, first-aid kit, a repair kit with pump (for rafts), and extra clothing. Use watertight bags tied to the boat.

● **HEALTH** - Cold water and chilling air can produce lower body temperature resulting in hypothermia. Symptoms include uncontrolled shivering, weakness, lack of coordination, and bluish skin. Remove wet clothes and warm with dry clothes, warm fluids, campfire heat, or skin-to-skin contact. Prolonged exposure to sun is also dangerous, especially on water. Wear a head covering and drink plenty of liquids. Bring enough water on your trip or boil or chemically treat river water.

● **FLASH FLOODS** - Thunderstorms upstream may cause flash floods in river canyons several miles downstream. It is best not to camp in drainage bottoms.

● **SEARCH AND RESCUE** - If lost or injured try to stay warm and dry. To summon help use signals that can be seen or heard.

● **WILDLIFE** - Wildlife can be observed, but should not be disturbed. Remember, a protective parent or mate is usually nearby.

● **BE PREPARED** - A successful trip depends on having the right equipment and being prepared for changing river and weather conditions. Do not attempt trips beyond your skills. Let someone know your schedule and report at the end of your trip.

By following good river etiquette and safety tips, your trip will be safer and more enjoyable. What you do will affect the environment of the rivers and can reduce the need for future management regulations. Please take photographs, not resources, and leave only footprints so others can enjoy what you have enjoyed.

**HAVE A GOOD TRIP.
SEE YOU ON THE RIVER.**



MANAGED BY THE BLM

RIVER	RIVER TRIPS 1/ AVAILABLE (MILES EACH SECTION)		COMMERCIAL TRIPS AVAILABLE INDIVIDUAL TRIPS REQUIRED				NATIONAL DESIGNATION											MAJOR ATTRACTIONS	PHONE										
							MAJOR ATTRACTIONS																						
Delta	1	(35) (17)	Part	No	Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4700 E. 72nd Ave., Anchorage, AK 99507	(907) 267-1200					
Gulkana	2	(45)	Yes	No	Part	X																4700 E. 72nd Ave., Anchorage, AK 99507	(907) 267-1200						
Gulkana, Middle Fork	3	(34)	Yes	No	No	X																4700 E. 72nd Ave., Anchorage AK 99507	(907) 267-1200						
Unalakleet	4	(80)	No	No	Part	X																4700 E. 72nd Ave., Anchorage, AK 99507	(907) 267-1200						
Beaver Creek	5	(127)	No	No	No	X																80x 1150, Fairbanks, AK 99707	(907) 356-2025						
Birch Creek	6	(126)	No	No	No	X																Box 1150, Fairbanks, AK 99707	(907) 367-2025						
Forty Mile, Middle Fork	7	(95) (88)	No	No	Part	X																80x 1150, Fairbanks, AK 99707	(907) 356-2025						
Forty Mile, South Fork	8	(72) (88)	No	No	Part	X																Box 1150, Fairbanks, AK 99707	(907) 356-2025						
Deschutes	9	(50) (50) (10) (10)	Yes	Yes	No																	P.O. Box 550, Prineville, OR 97754	(503) 447-4115						
John Day	10	(46) (65)	Yes	No	No																	P.O. Box 550, Prineville, OR 97754	(503) 447-4115						
Klamath, Upper	11	(11)	Yes	No	No																	3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504	(503) 776-4174						
Rogue	12	(33) (various)	Yes	Yes	Yes	X	X															3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504	(503) 776-4174						
Grande Ronde	13	(60)	Yes	No	No																	P.O. Box 987, Baker, OR 97814	(503) 523-6391						
North Umpqua	14	(32)	Yes	No	No																	777 NW Garden Valley Blvd., Roseburg, OR 97470	(503) 672-4491						
Owyhee (Oregon)	15	(38) (57)	Yes	No	No																	P.O. Box 700, Vale OR 97918	(503) 473-3144						
Owyhee (Idaho)	16	(50) (35)	No	Yes	No																	3948 Development Ave., Boise, ID 83705	(208) 334-1582						
Owyhee, So. Fork (Idaho)	17	(30)	Yes	No	No																	3948 Development Ave., Boise, ID 83705	(208) 334-1582						
Owyhee, So. Fork (Nev.)	18	(25)	Yes	No	No																	P.O. Box 831, Elko, Nevada 89801	(702) 738-4071						
Bruneau/Jarbridge	19	(30) (30) (40)	Yes	No	No																	3948 Development Ave., Boise, ID 83705	(208) 334-1582						
Payette	20	(10) (7) (9)	Yes	No	No																	3948 Development Ave., Boise, ID 83705	(208) 334-1582						
Snake (Boise, Idaho)	21	(25) (11)	Yes	No	Yes																	3948 Development Ave., Boise, ID 83705	(208) 334-1582						
Snake (Shoshone, Idaho)	22	(23) (20) (20)	Yes	No	Yes																	P.O. Box 28, Shoshone, ID 83352	(208) 886-2206						
Snake, So. Fork	23	(15) (26)	Yes	No	Yes																	940 Lincoln Road, Idaho Falls, ID 83401	(208) 529-1020						
Coeur d'Alene	24	(40)	No	Yes	Yes																	1801 N. 3rd Street, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814	(208) 765-7356						
Salmon, Lower	25	(70) (75)	Yes	No	Yes																	Rt. 3 Box 181, Cottonwood, ID 83522	(208) 962-3245						
Salmon, Upper Main	26	(105) (112)	Yes	No	Yes																	P.O. Box 430, Salmon, ID 83467	(208) 756-2201						
Missouri, Upper	27	(10-149)	Yes	No	Yes	X	X	X														Airport Road, Lewistown, MT 59475	(406) 538-7461						
Madison	28	(16)	Yes	No	No																	P.O. Box 1048, Dillon, MT 59725	(406) 683-2337						
Trinity	29	(40)	Yes	No	Part	X	X															355 Hemsted Drive, Redding, CA 96002	(916) 246-5325						
Sacramento, Lower	30	(53)	Yes	No	Yes																	355 Hemsted Drive, Redding, CA 96002	(916) 246-5325						
American, So. Fork	31	(21)	Yes	Yes	No																	63 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA 95630	(916) 985-4474						
Kern, Lower	32	(21)	Yes	Yes	No																	520 Butte Street, Bakersfield, CA 93305	(805) 861-4236						
Merced	33	(25)	Yes	No	No																	63 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA 95630	(916) 985-4474						
Eel, Middle Fork	34	(30)	Yes	No	No	X	X	X														555 Leslie Street, Ukiah, CA 95482	(707) 462-3873						
Carson, East Fork	35	(31)	Yes	No	No																	1050 E. Wm. St., Ste. 335, Carson City, NV 89400	(702) 882-1631						
Green, Browns Park	36	(16)	Yes	No	No																	170 So. 500 East, Vernal, UT 84078	(801) 789-1362						
Green	37	(84) (8) (68)	Yes	No	Yes																	P.O. Drawer A8, Price, UT 84501	(801) 637-4584						
San Juan	38	(20) (27) (56)	Yes	Yes	Yes																	P.O. Box 7, Monticello, UT 84535	(801) 587-2201						
Dolores (Utah)	39	(30)	Yes	Yes	Yes																	P.O. Box M, Moab, UT 84532	(801) 259-8193						
Dolores (Colorado)	40	(102) (58) (44)	Yes	No	Yes																	701 Camino Del Rio, Durango, CO 81301	(303) 247-4082						
Arkansas	41	(10) (13-44)	Yes	No	Yes																	P.O. Box 1470, Canon City, CO 81212	(303) 275-7578						
Gunnison	42	(13)	Yes	No	Yes																	2465 So. Townsend, Montrose, CO 81401	(303) 249-7791						
Colorado, Upper	43	(14)	Yes	No	Yes																	P.O. Box 68, Kremmling, CO 80459	(303) 724-3437						
Colorado, Catamount	44	(6-43)	Yes	No	Yes																	P.O. Box 1009, Glenwood Springs, CO 81602	(303) 945-2341						
Colorado, Ruby Canyon	45	(25)	Yes	No	Yes																	764 Horizon Drive, Grand Junction, CO 81501	(303) 243-6552						
Colorado, Moab	46	(17) (5-32)	Yes	Yes	Yes																	P.O. Box M, Moab, UT 84532	(801) 259-8193						
Colorado, Lower	47	(17) (25)	Yes	No	Yes																	P.O. Box 5680, Yuma, AZ 85364	(602) 726-6300						
Bill Williams	48	(6-26)	No	No	Yes																	P.O. Box 685, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86043	(602) 855-8017						
Gila (Arizona)	49	(20)	Yes	No	Yes																	425 E. 4th Street, Safford, AZ 85546	(602) 428-4040						
Gila (New Mexico)	50	(49) (28)	No	No	Yes																	P.O. Box 1420, Las Cruces, NM 88004	(602) 855-8018						
Rio Grande	51	(18) (8)	Yes	No	No	X	X	X														P.O. Box 1045, Taos, NM 87571	(505) 758-8851						
Rio Chama	52	(30)	Yes	No	No																	P.O. Box 1045, Taos, NM 87571	(505) 758-8851						
North Platte	53	(6-127)	Yes	Yes	Yes																	Box 670, Rawlins, WY 82301	(307) 324-7171						
Encampment	54	(6)	No	No	No																	Box 670, Rawlins, WY 82301	(307) 324-7171						

Before running any river for the first time you will need to know more.

Information about specific river sections can be obtained by writing to the Bureau of Land Management

1 River mileages represent popular float boating trips. Shorter or longer trips may be possible. Please inquire at the address listed for specific trip information.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

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